



Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense: Legislative Affairs

Legislative Update

DOD SUPPORT FOR HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2005**

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)

Authorities

- USACE conducts its emergency response activities under two basic authorities:
 - The Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies Act (P.L. 84-99).
 - The Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (P.L. 93-288).

Command and Control

- Commander, USACE is Lieutenant General Strock in Washington, D.C.
- USACE Task Force Commander is Major General Don Riley in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) Commander is Brigadier General Crear in Vicksburg, Mississippi. His area of operations covers the States of Louisiana and Mississippi.
- South Atlantic Division Commander is Brigadier General Walsh in Atlanta, Georgia. His area of operations covers the States of Alabama and Florida.

Operational Highlights

- 2,555 USACE personnel are supporting relief operations. Current unwatering estimates:
 - Orleans (East Bank) – 02 Oct (no change), Orleans East – 30 Sept (was 8 Oct), Chalmette 20 Sept (was 8 Oct) and Chalmette Extension – 30 Sept (was 8 Oct), and Plaquemines East 30 Sept (was 18 Oct) and Plaquemines West 18 Oct (no change).
 - TF Unwater officials met with New Orleans Mayor Nagin yesterday and discussed current protection levels and potential impacts on the city from Hurricane Rita. They also discussed best ways to leverage USACE capabilities and resources. TF Unwater officials also met with members of the Mayor's staff including the Water and Sewer Board. Meeting was characterized as very productive and identified a number of areas and ideas to capitalize on for success and future effective partnering that will continue to speed the City's recovery.
 - Dutch and German teams continue to support unwatering operations and have been notified to prepare to secure their personnel and equipment should Rita strike.
 - USACE contractor began work yesterday with 40 vacuum trucks to clear sewers in specific zip codes in New Orleans. This is a coordinated effort with the Public Works Director and JTF- Katrina.
 - Actions for next 24 hours: Monitor Hurricane Rita's track and continue to focus on strengthening the weak points in the levee and canal system. Also working to build pump capacity to mitigate future storm events and prepare to implement evacuation plans for our personnel and equipment if Rita changes course and threatens the area.
- Water and Ice: 54,245,000 liters of water and 216,160,000 lbs of ice delivered to date.



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- Debris:
 - Total tonnage of debris removed and projected: 2,649,897 CY removed; 55.5 million cubic yards is the new total estimate. The USACE portion of the debris removal project is ~24.5 M CY. Remainder of debris will be removed by individual counties and parishes.
 - Detailed plans for debris removal indicate this project will take one year to complete.
 - On Sunday, September 19th, FEMA announced a policy change regarding debris removal from private property. FEMA will now pay for debris removal from private property. For details on this new policy see FEMA Press Release No: 05-274. The new policy applies in Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.
- Roofing:
 - Total temp roofs completed and projected: 7, 291 installed, 5,623 completed (accepted by USACE inspectors), 51,000 projected total roofs required.
- Power: 20 Prime Power soldiers working in the area.
 - Last 24 hours: Demand for de-installation continues to exceed installation demand.
 - Have completed 835 assessments and 226 generator installs to date.
 - 122 generators have been de-installed.
 - Next 24 hours: Will complete assessments/installs as assigned.
- Navigation:
 - Mississippi River – daylight only at Southwest Pass – all other open 24 hours.
 - Gulf Intracoastal Waterway open from Texas to Florida via Baptiste Collette.
 - Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC): northern half open.
- Housing:
 - Corps Housing Planning and Response Team (PRT) is supporting FEMA's Housing Area Command (HAC).
 - Conducting design review of FEMA's Contractor's Designs
 - Perform Quality Assurance of Temporary Housing Site Construction.
 - Completed environmental site survey of two Fluor sites, Donaldson Agricultural site and Clinton Boy Scout Camp.